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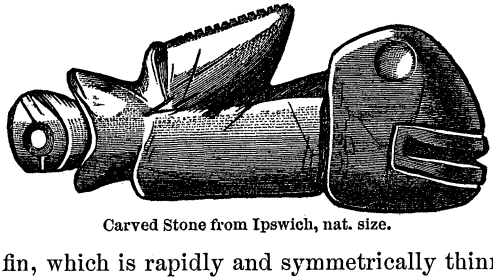
ANTHROPOLOGY.

An Indian Carving.—At a recent meeting of the Essex Institute, Mr. F. W. Putnam exhibited a very interesting carved stone which he had received from Dr. Palmer of Ipswich, who stated that it had been found at Turkey Hill, Ipswich.

This stone was evidently carved with care for the purpose of being worn as an ornament, and was probably suspended from the neck. It is of a soft slate, easily cut with a sharp, hard stone. The markings left in various places by the carver, showing where his tool had slipped, indicate that no very delicate instrument was used, while the several grooves, made to carry out the idea of the sculptor, indicate as plainly that the instrument by which they were made, had, what we should call, a rounded edge, like that of a dull hatchet, as the grooves were wider at the top than at the bottom, and the striæ show that they were made by a sort of sawing motion, or a rubbing of the instrument backwards and forwards. In fact, the carver's tool might have been almost any stone implement, from an arrowhead to a skin scraper, or any hard piece of roughly chipped stone.

Figure 114 represents the stone of natural size, its total length being two and a half inches. It is of general uniform thickness, about one-fifth of an inch, except where the angles are slightly rounded off on the front of the head and on the abdominal outline, and the portion representing the forked tail, or caudal fin, which is rapidly and symmetrically thinned to its edges, as is the notched portion representing the dorsal fin.

Fig. 114.



Carved Stone from Ipswich, nat. size.

The carving was evidently intended to represent a fish, with some peculiar ideas of the artist added and several important characters left out. The three longitudinal grooves in front represent the mouth and jaws, while the transverse groove at their termination gives a limit to the length of the jaw, and a very decided groove on the under side divides the under jaw into its right and left portions. The eyes are represented as slight depressions at the top of the head. The head is separated from the abdominal portion by a decided groove, and the caudal fin is well represented by the forked portion, from the centre of which the rounded termination of the whole projects. In this part there is an irregularly made hole of a size large enough to allow a strong cord to pass through for the purpose of suspension. The portion of the sculpture rising in the place of a dorsal fin is in several ways a singular conception of the ancient carver. While holding the position of a dorsal fin, it points the wrong way, if we regard the portion looking so much like a shark's tooth as intended to represent the fin as a whole. It is very likely that the designer wished to show that the fin was not connected with the head and, as he was limited by the length of the piece of stone, after making the head so much out of proportion, he was forced to cut under the anterior portion of the fin in order to express this fact. If we regard it in this light, the notches on the upper edge may be considered as indicating the fin rays; but the figure best shows the character of the sculpture, and persons interested can draw their own conclusions.

The symmetry of the whole carving is well carried out, both sides being alike, with the exception that the raised portion at the posterior part of what has here been called the dorsal fin is a little more marked on the left side than on the right, and the edge on the same side is surrounded by a faint, irregularly drawn line.

The carving was unquestionably made by an Indian of the tribe once numerous in this vicinity and, as it was almost beyond a doubt cut by a stone tool of some kind, it must be considered as quite an ancient work of art; probably worn as a "medicine," and possibly indicated either the name of the wearer or that he was a noted fisherman.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW HUMAN SKELETON OF THE PALÆOLITHIC EPOCH IN ITALY.—M. E. Rivière describes (*Comptes Rendus*, 1873, Part 16, 1027) the remains of a second fossil human skeleton from the sixth cave of Baoussé — Roussé (Grottes de Menton), Italy. The skeleton was found at a depth of nearly four metres below the floor of the cave, lying extended on its back in the longitudinal direction of the cave. The deposit forming the floor is regularly stratified, and consists of charcoal, ashes, of small calcined angular stones, bones and teeth of animals, shells and flints. Associated with the remains were numerous flint implements and a few worked in bone, as well as a number of perforated shells belonging to the genera *Nassa*, *Buccinum*, *Cypræa*, etc.; these, from their position, had evidently formed parts of a necklace and bracelets, and were interred with the body. The extreme friability of the bones did not allow of their removal in so perfect a condition as that of the first skeleton, but, in this case also, they belonged to a tall individual, the skeleton measuring nearly two metres in length. In the débris of the cave, bones of the following animals were met with:— *Ursus spelæus*, *Hyæna spelæa*, *Canis lupus* and *vulpes*, *Arctomys primigenia*, *Lepus cuniculus*, *Mus*, *Equus caballus*, *Sus scrofa*, *Bos primigenius*, *Cervus Canadensis*, *Elaphus corsicus* and *capreolus*, and *Capra primigenia*. Besides there were found some bones of a large eagle and of some birds of passage, as well as numerous species of marine shells of the genera *Patella*, *Pectunculus*, *Mytilus*, *Pecten*, *Dentalium*, and *Trochus*.— *The Academy.*

MICROSCOPY.

APERTURES OF OBJECTIVES.—The full report having been received of the London examination of the Tolles' $\frac{1}{10}$ inch objective sent there for measurement, it appears that unfortunately the examiners were thrown off their guard by an unexpected element in the case, and that, incredible as it may seem, their report does not touch the real question at issue. Everybody knows that an objective with cover-adjustment possesses a certain range of powers and angular apertures; and no one doubts that Mr. Tolles can make an objective of 145° aperture in air, or that the corresponding apertures would be 91° in water and 79° in thinned balsam. The one question in regard to this objective is not its balsam angle at an adjustment, dry, upon an accidentally or arbitrarily chosen object and the corresponding immersion angles, but its balsam angle at its highest (working) adjustment. If, from faulty mounting, the adjustment can be screwed past the limit of good definition, then of course it ceases to be an achromatic objective at all, and its angle beyond such limit is not worth talking about. The examiners do not state, however, that they examined the combination at its highest available angle dry, still less at its highest available angle immersed. Mr. Tolles' prominence as a successful maker of objectives gives a certain value to his statements even when they seem arbitrary; and it is to be hoped that